Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, By accident at birth on September 4, 1946, and following a lifelong desire never to be late, James Craig Spies was born, a lightweight at 5 pounds, 4 ounces, to B. E. and Evelyn Spies; and,

Whereas, Jim's graduation from Watertown High School in 1964 was a prelude to his academic career at SDSU in Brookings, which he found far less fulfilling than chasing his high school honey, Francene Argabrite, whom he married on July 2, 1969, and together nurtured two fine sons, Josh and Ben; and,

Whereas, Following Jim's education in the School of Hard Knocks, he sought to enhance his education by becoming a certified, advanced scuba diver and an instrument rated pilot; and,

Whereas, Jim served his country with honor and distinction in the South Dakota National Guard, retiring as a "battle hardened" SP 5 during the Vietnam War; and,

Whereas, Jim, AKA, Mr. Meticulous or Mr. Patience, and brother, Ed, comprise the bad guy/good guy team of Spies Corporation and together they coined the "Cowboy Convenience Store" concept and are engaged full time in the "sin business" selling video lottery and liquor; and,

Whereas, Nicknamed "Thunder," Jim is up before 5 a.m., booming his way through his Watertown domain fueled by two mugs of Espresso coffee and ending his workday at 4 p.m., when you can hear a collective sigh of relief from his staff; and,

Whereas, Jim's passions: Francene, hunting, fine wine and storytelling are reflected in his daily activities, and his glib tongue and storytelling ability have been honed to a fine art form in order to describe his other passions; and,

Whereas, Jim's membership in numerous organizations and appointments to many boards and commissions are reflections of the high regard and esteem in which Jim is held, as well as his personal commitment to the state of South Dakota and to the economic growth which fuels our future; and,

Whereas, It is altogether fitting and proper for the Governor to recognize Jim at this special milestone of his life, as family and friends gather on August 4, 2006, to celebrate his 60th Birthday:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 4, 2006, as

JIM SPIES DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State